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ETHIOPIA VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD DRIFTING TOWARDS CHINA: IMD

Ash clouds from volcanic eruption in Ethiopia reached the skies over Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday

NO IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY OR WEATHER

"The ash cloud is drifting towards China and will move away from Indian skies by 7.30pm on Tuesday," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology at the India Meteorological Department, said. He noted that the volcanic ash is present only in the upper troposphere and is affecting flight operations, but it has no impact on air quality or weather

FLIGHT OPERATIONS DISRUPTED

- Air India announced it has cancelled 13 flights since Monday. Other carriers have also reported flight cancellations or delays
- Hayli Gubbi, a shield volcano in Ethiopia's Afar region, erupted on Sunday, producing a large ash plume. The plume spread eastward towards the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent

14 km

THE HEIGHT TO WHICH THE VOLCANO SPEWED ITS ASH PLUME

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

1983 Nellie massacre reports

One blames it on poll imposition, other doesn't

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

File picture of a family displaced after the Nellie violence in 1983 | x

THE Assam government on Tuesday tabled the reports of two probe panels on the large-scale violence during the peak of the anti-immigrant agitation, including the 1983 Nellie massacre, which successive governments chose to sit on.

Over 2,000 people, most of them immigrant Bengali-speaking Muslims, were killed on February 18, 1983 in the small town of Nellie in Central Assam's Morigaon district.

The two reports held contradictory views on the violence amid assembly polls during President's Rule in 1983.

The Tewari Commission, officially constituted by the then CM Hiteswar Saikia of the Congress, said the violence had no 'communal colour'. "The decision to hold the elections cannot be blamed for the outbreak of the violence of 1983," said the commission, headed by retired IAS officer Tribhuvan Prasad Tewary. It held the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Gana Sangram Parishad (AGSP) "primarily responsible for launching the stir and for its consequences".

The 'unofficial' Justice TU Mehta Commission, formed by Mukti Jujaru Sanmilan and members of the anti-foreigners' agitation, attributed the reason for the violence to the imposition of elections against the wishes of the people. It said the situation was not conducive to hold elections and put the blame on incumbent central government, Election Commission, "politicians who wanted to capture power by hook or crook", the then Assam governor and his bureaucrats.

The Mehta commission report said the Election Commission could have decided against holding the polls to stop the violence but it did not. Also, the report said, the polls were held without correcting the electoral rolls. "The evidence produced before the Commission clearly brings out the issues of foreigners, language, etc have been agitating the minds of the people for the last several decades, exploding into violence."

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said although the Tewary report was tabled in 1987, only one copy was sent to the Speaker. The Mehta report was tabled in the House for the first time on Tuesday.

Christian officer's sack upheld

UDAYAN KISHORE @ New Delhi

CALLING a Christian army officer's alleged refusal to enter his regimental temple's sanctum sanctorum as the "grossest kind of indiscipline", a Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymala Bagchi on Tuesday upheld his termination.

Earlier, the Delhi High Court had sanctioned Samuel Kamalesan's termination on grounds of 'indiscipline'.

Kamalesan was commissioned in 2017 into the 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

The SC bench, on a plea by the officer against his termination, said while he may be an outstanding officer, "he is definitely a misfit for the Army... Leaders have to lead by example. You are insulting your troops."

The bench pointed out that the officer had ignored even the advice of a local pastor, who counselled him and said entering a temple would not violate his faith. "You cannot have your private understanding of what your religion permits. That too in uniform," it said.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Kamalesan, said the appellant's fundamental right to practise a religion under Article 25 cannot be taken away. "Where in the Christian faith is entering a temple barred?" Justice Bagchi asked.

"In your team, there are Sikh soldiers... (for whom) there is a gurdwara. A gurdwara is one of the most secular places. Is his tone and tenor not insulting all soldiers? We are surprised he doesn't even follow the advice of the pastor," CJI Surya Kant said.

ARMY: HE WAS ADAMANT

The Army had said the officer repeatedly refused to attend mandatory regimental parades and senior officers made "multiple attempts" to counsel him, but to no avail

From the home of milk to milk in every home
Amul
Tribute to Dr. Kurien on his 104th birth anniversary
NATIONAL Milk DAY
daCunha/AB/1068

Arunachal tangle continues between India and China

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

CHINA on Tuesday rejected allegations that an Indian woman from Arunachal Pradesh was harassed by immigration officials during a layover at Shanghai airport, insisting that officers acted in accordance with the law.

Pema Wangjom Thongdok

Pema Wangjom Thongdok, a UK-based Indian citizen, said her three-hour layover turned into an ordeal after immigration personnel declared her passport "invalid" because it listed Arunachal Pradesh as her birthplace.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Thongdok had not been subjected to any compulsory measures, detention or harassment. Mao also reiterated China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh, prompting a strong pushback from India, with the MEA asserting it remains an integral and inalienable part of India.

On Thongdok's experience, the MEA said Chinese authorities had still not been able to explain their actions, which it described as violation of international conventions.

PM HOISTS SAFFRON FLAG ATOP AYODHYA RAM MANDIR

Calling the moment "unique" and "divine", PM Narendra Modi said the sacred flag is a testimony of triumph of truth. Also present were RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Yogi Adityanath

Sr IAS officer dies in accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kalaburagi

MAHANTESH Bilagi (51), a 2012 batch IAS officer who was holding the charge of managing director of Karnataka State Minerals Corporations, died in a road accident near Gounalli Cross of Jewargi Taluk on Tuesday. Along with Mahantesh, his two brothers also died when their car turned turtle near the Jewargi bypass. P3

Barred from KSCA polls, Shantha Kumar moves K'taka HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KN Shantha Kumar, contesting for the post of president of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), moved the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday after the electoral officer rejected his candidature on technical grounds. As things stand now, former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad will be uncontested for the president's post.

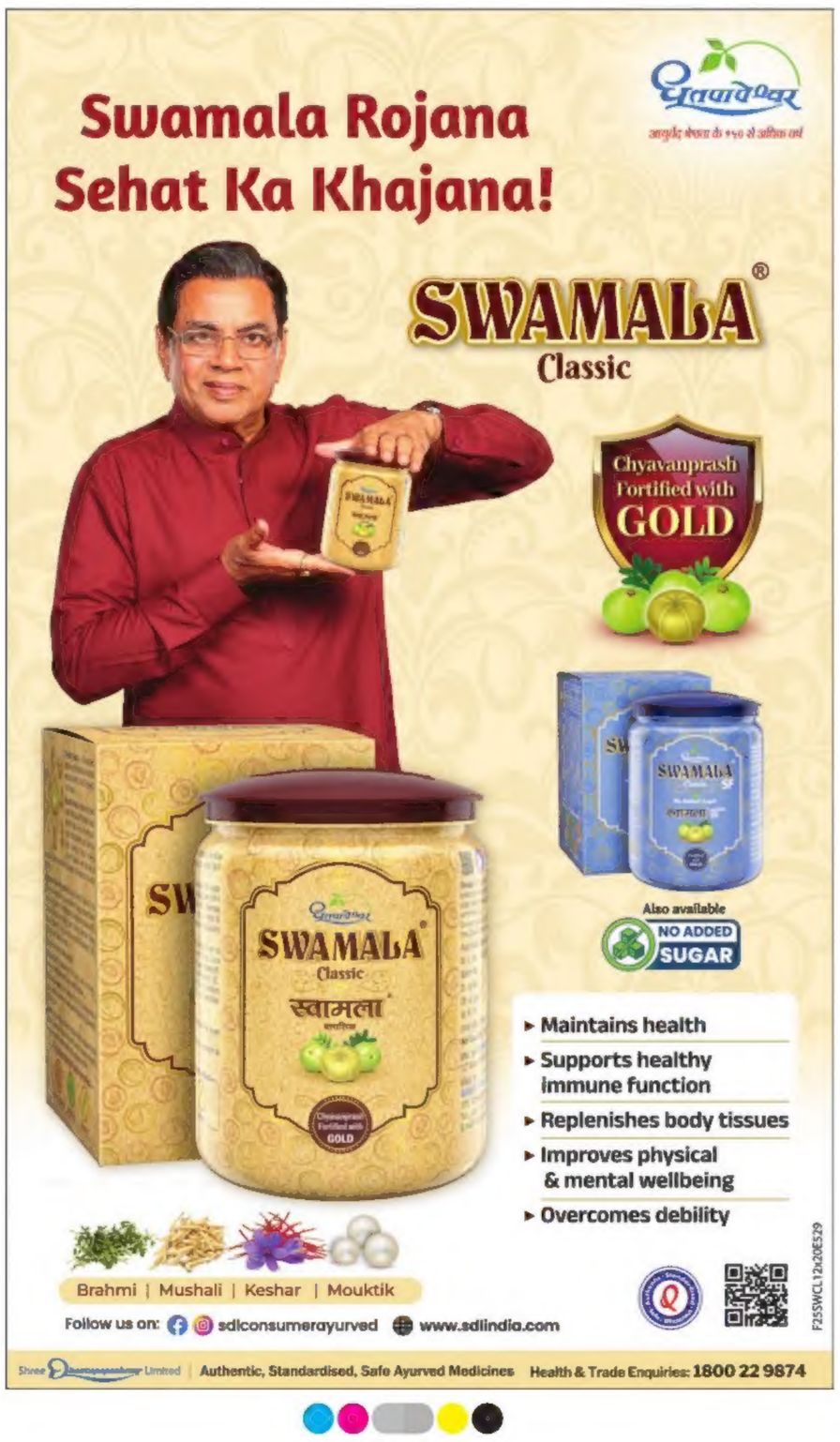
An official statement from Team Brijesh, which backs Kumar, stated that the technicality is materially trivial. "The nomination of KN Shantha Kumar for the post of president of the KSCA was rejected because the sports body he represented had an outstanding subscription arrear of Rs 200," the statement read. P9

ICC T20 MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

INDIA TO FACE PAK IN COLOMBO

The T20 World Cup 2026 will begin on February 7. Defending champions India will take on Pakistan in a high-profile encounter in Colombo on February 15

MORE ON P17



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